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LOOK'A THAT! THEY HADDA SEND FER WHIRLYBIRDS TO GIT EVERYONE OFF'A THE SHIP!
DOOM IS HAVIN' HIMSELF A BLASTED BALL WHILE WE SIT AROUND WAITIN' FER SOMETHIN' TA HAPPEN!
AND WHAT WOULD YOU SUGGEST DOING, BEN?
I'D HOP INTO ONE OF YER NUTTY JET RACERS 'N CATCH UP TO 'IM!
---THEN I'D TAKE THAT TIN SUIT O' HIS APART, BOLT BY BOLT, AND WRAP IT AROUND 'IM LIKE A RUSTY KIMONO!
THAT'S WHAT YOU'D LIKE TO DO, OLD FRIEND!
BUT, WITH HIS COSMIC POWER, HE'D PUT YOU OUT OF ACTION BEFORE YOU COULD TOSS THE FIRST PUNCH!
YEAH? SEZ WHO?
SAYS ME!
THIS IS ONE FIGHT THAT'LL CALL FOR FAR MORE THAN BRUTE STRENGTH!
THAT SINKS IT, MISTER!
IF YOU CAN'T BE THE HERO, YA DON'T WANNA PLAY, HUH?
WELL, BLUE-EYED BENJAMIN AIN'T HANGIN' AROUND ANY LONGER---
I'M GOIN' AFTER 'IM MYSELF--- LIKE NOW!
YA NEVER HAD MY VOTE TA TURN THE FF INTO A CHICKEN-SCRATCHIN' SEWIN' CIRCLE!
NO, BEN--- DON'T! OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO FIGHT LIKE A TEAM!
BEN! HOLD IT, YOU HOT-HEADED HOOT-OWL! I SAID HOLD IT!
TELL IT TA REED---HE'S BUCKIN' FER THE JOB OF ARMCHAIR GENERAL!
THAT DOES IT, BEN! I'VE PUT UP WITH YOUR TEMPER TANTRUMS LONG ENOUGH!
YOU KNOW I DESIGNED A WEAPON TO DEFEAT DOOM--- ARMY ORDNANCE IS MAKING A FULL-SIZE MODEL OUT OF MY MINIATURE PROTO-TYPE RIGHT NOW!
IT'LL BE READY FOR US IN A MATTER OF HOURS! AND YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING TO UPSET THE APPLE CART TILL THEN, HEAR?
BIG DEAL! SUPPOSE YER GOOFY GIZMO DON'T WORK! ..THEN WHAT?
ZZZZZZZ
THERE'S OUR ALARM BUZZER! SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR!
THEN YOU'D BETTER START PRAYING, BIG MAN!
IT'S WYATT! WHERE'S JOHNNY, SON?
I COULDN'T STOP HIM! HE HEARD WHAT DOOM WAS UP TO---ON THE RADIO!
HE FLAMED ON AND BLAZED AFTER HIM --- BY HIMSELF! --- HE WOULDN'T EVEN WAIT FOR ME!
GOOD FER HIM! AT LEAST THE KID'S GOT SOME SPUNK!
MY BROTHER ---FACING DR. DOOM ALONE! OH NO!
HE'S PROBABLY REACHED LATVERIA BY NOW!

AND, EVEN AS WYATT WINGFOOT RELAYS HIS STARTLING NEWS...
NOW THAT I'VE DEMONSTRATED MY COSMIC POWER THROUGH-OUT THE WORLD---IT'S TIME FOR ME TO REAP THE SUPREME REWARD!
I'LL FLY TO THE CAPITAL OF EACH HELPLESS NATION, ONE BY ONE-- SEIZING THE REINS OF POWER---UNTIL, AT LAST, ALL OF EARTH IS AT MY FEET!
BUT THEN, SUDDENLY, A BLISTERING HEAT BOLT BLAZES TOWARD THE FLYING FIGURE, AS A CHALLENGING VOICE RINGS OUT...
OKAY, DOOM... THE PARTY'S OVER! EITHER TOSS IN THE TOWEL, OR ELSE..!
THE TORCH!
YOU YOUNG FOOL.. MY COSMIC ENERGY CAN ABSORB YOUR USELESS FLAME AS A SPONGE SOAKS UP WATER!
YOU'RE WHISTLIN' IN THE DARK, MISTER.. AND WE BOTH KNOW IT!
WHO AM I KIDDIN'? HE CAN ABSORB MY FLAME ---IT DIDN'T EVEN JOLT HIM!
BUT, HE MUST HAVE SOME WEAKNESS! I'VE GOT TO RELY ON SPEED ALONE TO GIVE ME THE EDGE OVER HIM TILL I FIND IT!
HOW CONSIDERATE OF YOU TO SAVE ME THE TROUBLE OF TRACKING YOU DOWN BEFORE I DESTROY YOU!
3.

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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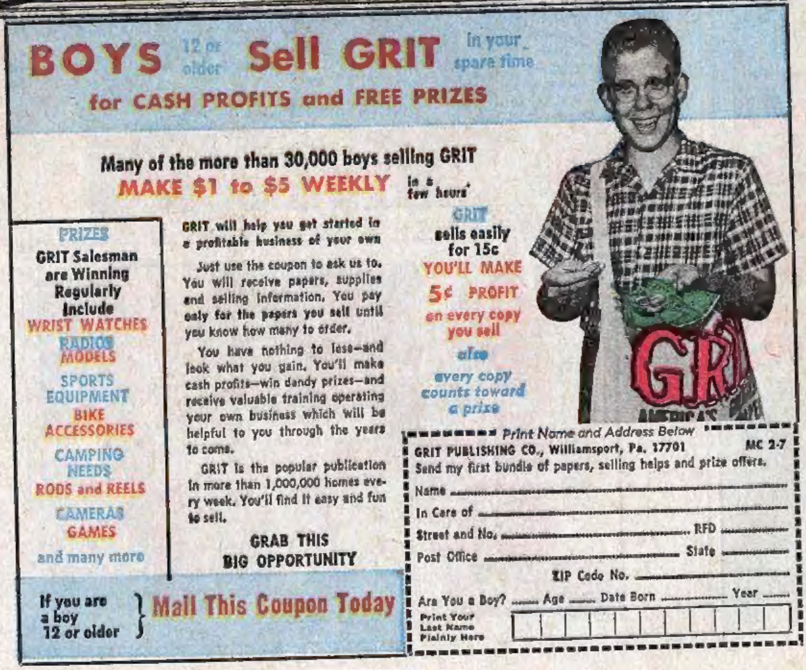
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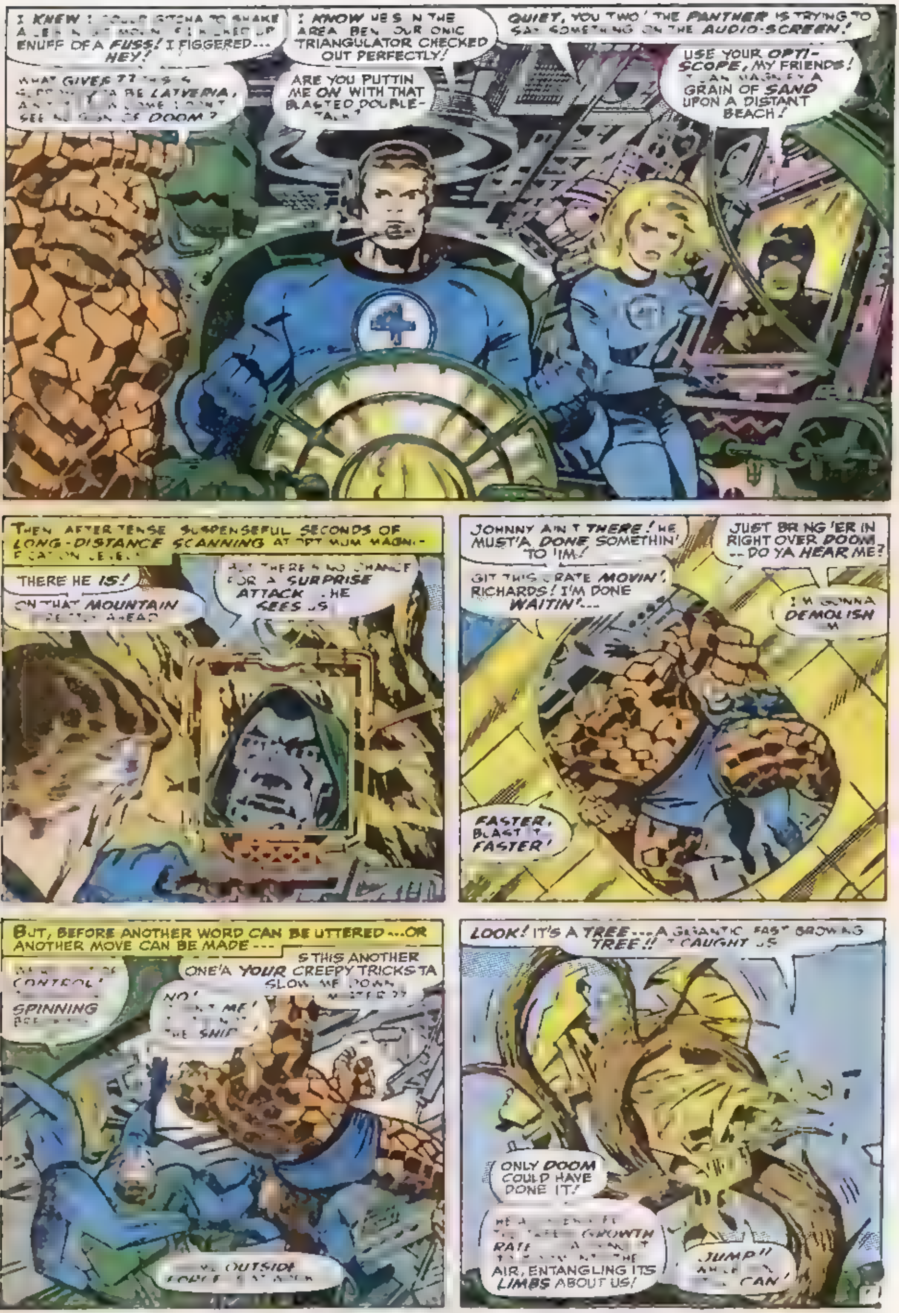
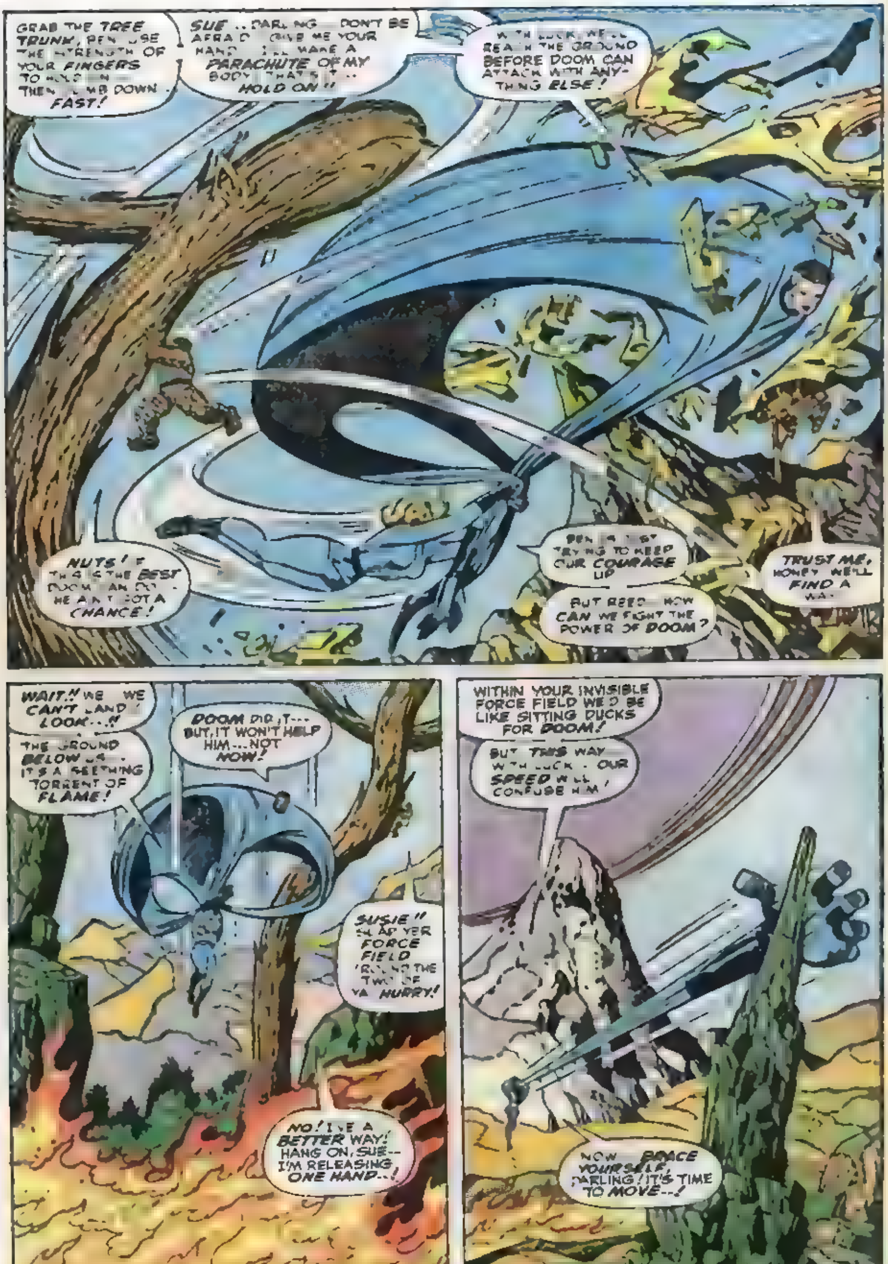
BUT THEN... WITHOUT ANY WARNING...
IT WAS A TRAP!
HE'S TURNED THE CLOUD INTO A DEADLY, WHIRLING SOLIDIFIED CYCLONE!
IF IT HITS ME, I WON'T HAVE A CHANCE!
I'VE GOTTA FIND SOME SHELTER IN THE FOREST BELOW!
THE CYCLONE IS FOLLOWING ME... AS IF IT'S ALIVE!
WHROOOOM!
I KNEW HE HAD THE SURFER'S POWER... BUT.. I NEVER THOUGHT HE COULD DO... THIS!
THERE MUST BE A CAVE SOMEWHERE!
IF I CAN JUST FIND IT.. IN TIME!
BUT, IN THE SPACE OF ONE MICRO-SECOND...
I--I'M TOO LATE!!
IT..CAUGHT ME..!
SO MUCH FOR THE BEATEN HUMAN TORCH!
BEFORE MY WONDROUS WHIRLPOOL DISAPPEARS, IT SHALL HAVE TAKEN WITH IT THE VERY LIFE OF JOHNNY STORM!

WHILE, IN A HEAVILY-GUARDED CASTLE ATOP THE HIGHEST PEAK OF LATVERIA, WE FIND---
I CAN REMAIN IMPRISONED NO LONGER--
I MUST HAVE AIR--LIGHT---
AND---ABOVE ALL ELSE--- I CRAVE FREEDOM-- THE FREEDOM OF-- THE SKIES--!
BUT--IT IS USELESS! I AM HELPLESSLY TRAPPED-- SHORN OF MY POWER--!
I WARNED YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM THAT WINDOW!
SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE SUPERIOR OF EARTHMEN, EH?
HAH! ONCE DOCTOR DOOM GOT HOLD OF YOU, HE TURNED YOU INTO A CRINGING, CRAWLING, WHIMPERING NOBODY!
YOU LIE!
THOUGH BEREFT OF MY POWER--- I DO NOT CRAWL --- I DO NOT WHIMPER! I AM STILL THE SILVER SURFER!
HAW! A FAT LOT OF GOOD THAT DOES YOU!
ONCE THE MASTER HAS DELIVERED HIS ULTIMATUM TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, HE WILL RETURN---AND THEN THE SILVER SURFER WILL HAVE BREATHED HIS LAST!
YOUR MASTER SHALL NEVER PREVAIL! THOUGH HE POSSESSES POWER ABSOLUTE--
--IT IS POWER USURPED!! SOMEHOW, AS SURELY AS THE COSMOS STANDS, IT SHALL-- IT MUST-- DESTROY HIM!
A SHORT TIME LATER, A FASTER-THAN-SOUND INTERCONTINENTAL CRUISER ROCKETS TOWARDS LATVERIA---
THE BLACK PANTHER MUST BE A MIND-READER, DARLING--- SENDING YOU THIS SHIP WHEN YOU NEED IT THE MOST!
IT'S FASTER BY FAR THAN ANY OF OURS, SUE.
IT STILL AIN'T FAST ENUFF FER ME, STRETCHO!
TAKE YER FOOT OFF'A THE BRAKE, WILLYA?
6


ENUFF OF A FUSS! I FIGGERED... HEY!
TRIANGULATOR CHECKED OUT PERFECTLY!
QUIET, YOU TWO! THE PANTHER IS TRYING TO SAY SOMETHING ON THE AUDIO-SCREEN!
ARE YOU PUTTIN ME ON WITH THAT BLASTED DOUBLE-
USE YOUR OPTI-SCOPE, MY FRIENDS!
GRAIN OF SAND UPON A DISTANT BEACH!
LONG-DISTANCE SCANNING
THERE HE IS!
ON THAT MOUNTAIN
SURPRISE ATTACK
JOHNNY AIN'T THERE! HE MUST'A DONE SOMETHIN' TO 'IM!
JUST BRING 'ER IN RIGHT OVER DOOM --DO YA HEAR ME?
GIT THIS CRATE MOVIN', RICHARDS! I'M DONE WAITIN'...
DEMOLISH
FASTER, FASTER!
BUT, BEFORE ANOTHER WORD CAN BE UTTERED---OR ANOTHER MOVE CAN BE MADE---
CONTROL!
SPINNING
ONE'A YOUR CREEPY TRICKS TA
NO!
OUTSIDE
LOOK! IT'S A TREE---A GIGANTIC, FAST GROWING TREE!!
ONLY DOOM COULD HAVE DONE IT!
GROWTH
AIR, ENTANGLING ITS LIMBS ABOUT US!
JUMP!!
CAN!



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Please rush your FREE illustrated booklet on your easier, spare-time, home-study plan to finish high school. No cost and no obligation.

Name ______ Age ____
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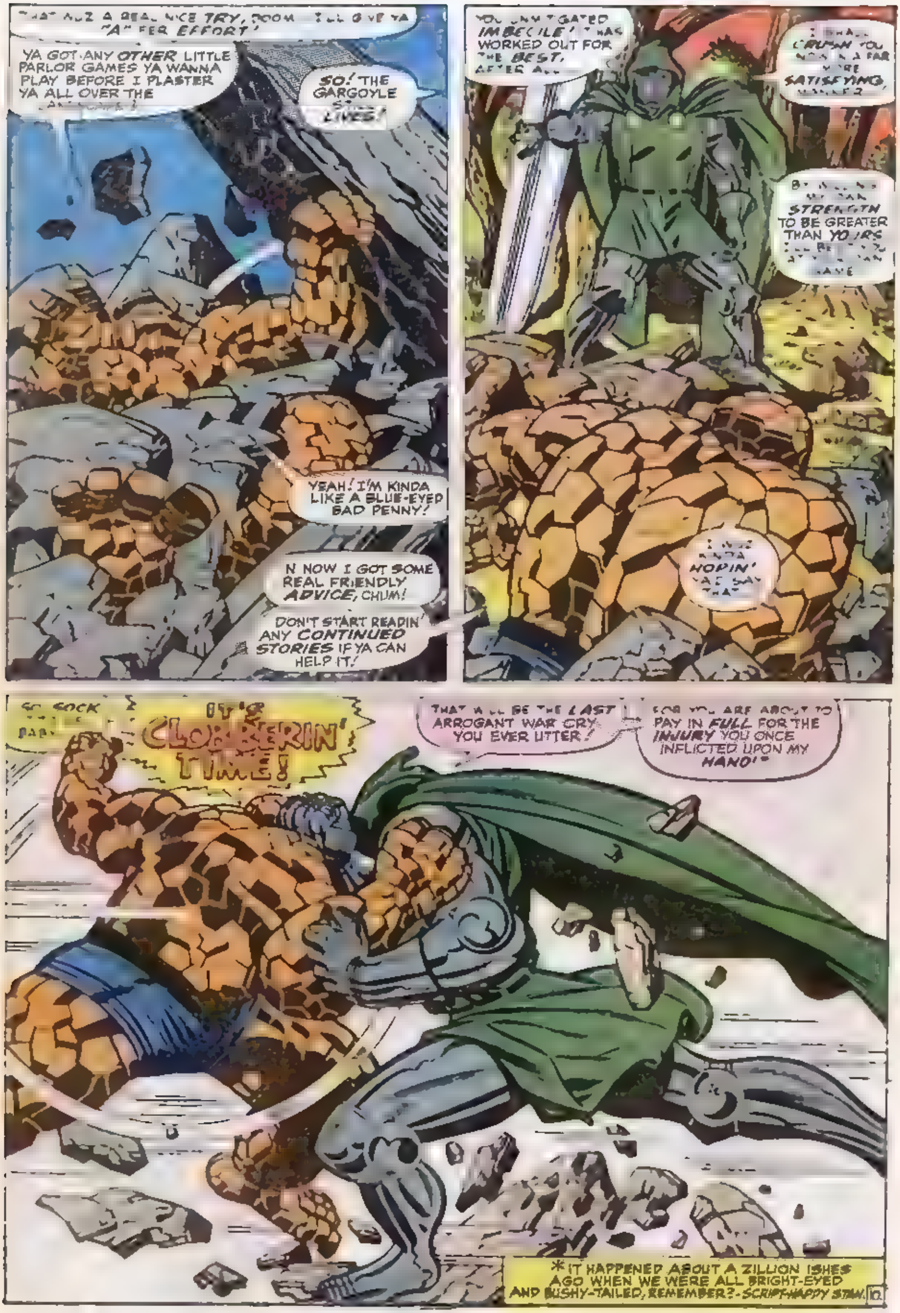
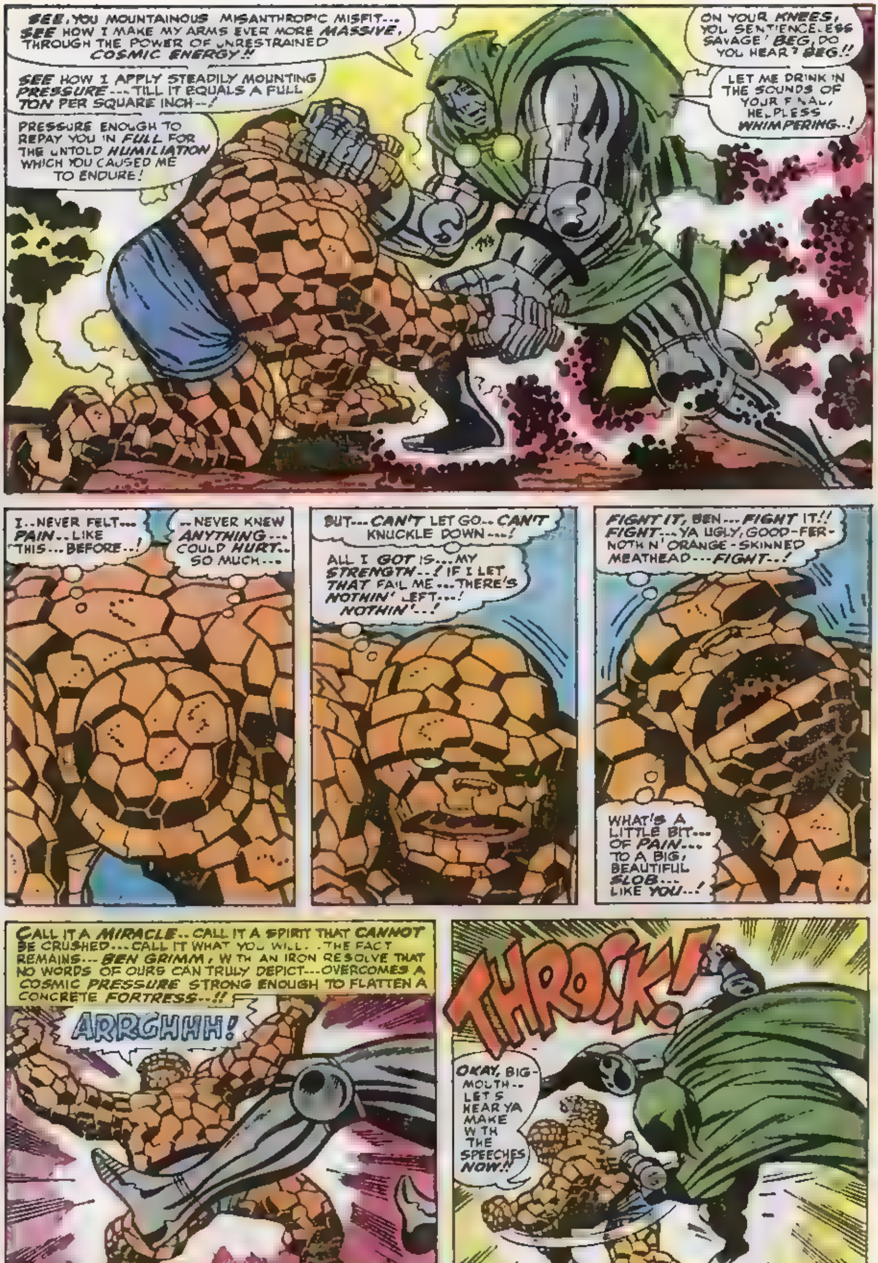
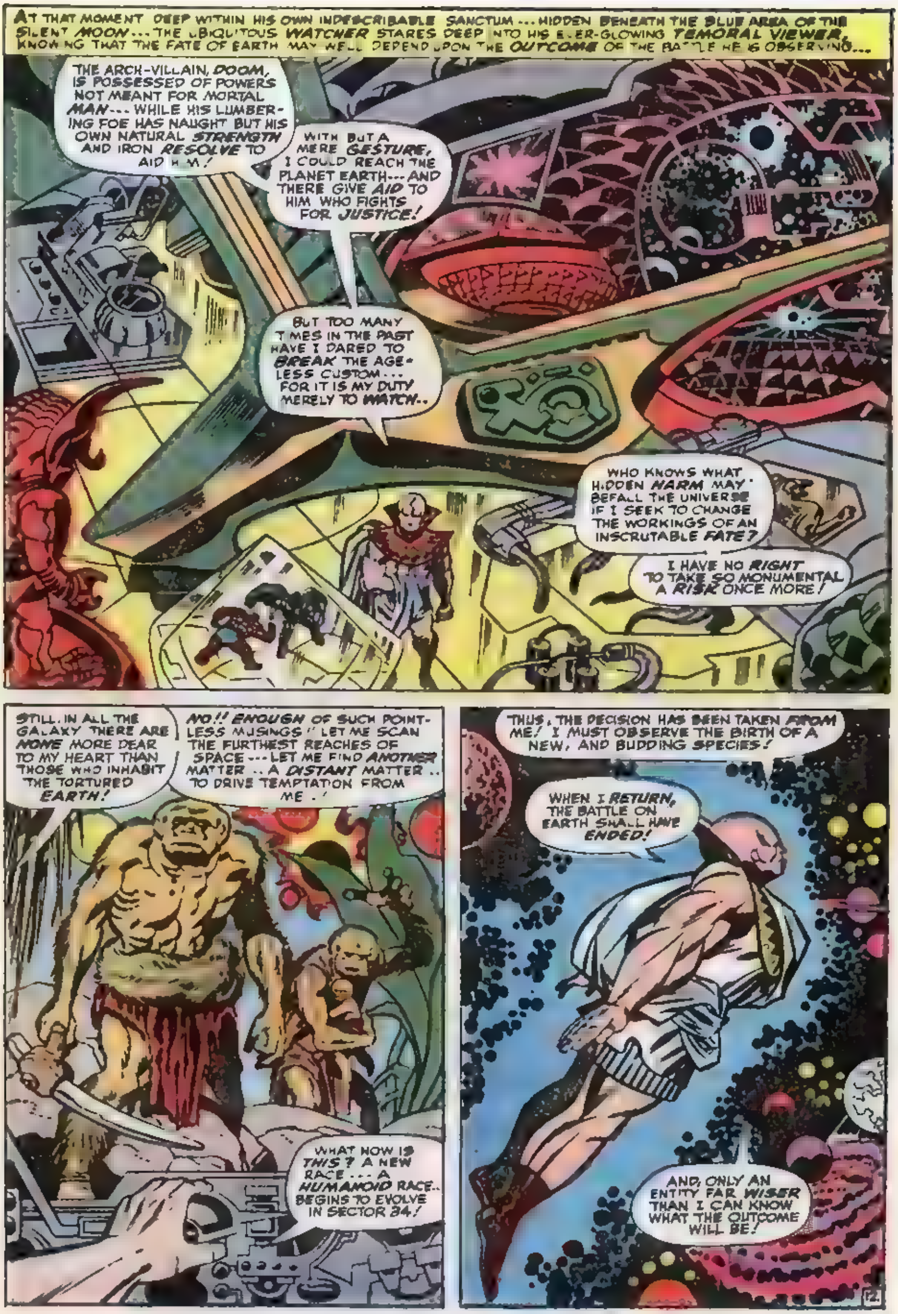
WE DID IT! WE'VE BYPASSED THE FLAME!
BUT, REED--- WHAT ABOUT JOHNNY? WHAT CAN HAVE HAPPENED TO HIM?
AND, BACK AT THE BEHEMOTH TREE---
WELL, REED 'N SUSIE ARE OKAY--FOR A WHILE, ANYWAY!
DOOM'S PROBABLY GOT HIS EYE ON ME RIGHT NOW!
INDEED YOU SHALL NOT LEAVE, YOU GRIMY,
YOU WILL REMAIN UPON THAT VERY SPOT FOREVER!



YA GOT ANY OTHER LITTLE PARLOR GAMES YA WANNA PLAY BEFORE I PLASTER YA ALL OVER THE
SO! THE GARGOYLE
LIVES!
YEAH! I'M KINDA LIKE A BLUE-EYED BAD PENNY!
N NOW I GOT SOME REAL FRIENDLY ADVICE, CHUM!
DON'T START READIN' ANY CONTINUED STORIES IF YA CAN HELP IT!
IMBECILE! WORKED OUT FOR THE BEST,
SATISFYING
STRENGTH TO BE GREATER THAN YOURS
HOPIN'
IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!
ARROGANT WAR CRY YOU EVER UTTER!
PAY IN FULL FOR THE INJURY YOU ONCE INFLICTED UPON MY HAND!*
*IT HAPPENED ABOUT A ZILLION ISHES AGO WHEN WE WERE ALL BRIGHT-EYED AND BUSHY-TAILED, REMEMBER? - SCRIPT-HAPPY STAN
10


SEE, YOU MOUNTAINOUS MISANTHROPIC MISFIT... SEE HOW I MAKE MY ARMS EVER MORE MASSIVE, THROUGH THE POWER OF UNRESTRAINED COSMIC ENERGY!!
SEE HOW I APPLY STEADILY MOUNTING PRESSURE--- TILL IT EQUALS A FULL TON PER SQUARE INCH--!
PRESSURE ENOUGH TO REPAY YOU IN FULL FOR THE UNTOLD HUMILIATION WHICH YOU CAUSED ME TO ENDURE!
ON YOUR KNEES, YOU SENTIENCELESS SAVAGE! BEG, DO YOU HEAR? BEG!!
LET ME DRINK IN THE SOUNDS OF YOUR FINAL, HELPLESS WHIMPERING..!
I..NEVER FELT... PAIN..LIKE THIS... BEFORE..!
--NEVER KNEW ANYTHING... COULD HURT.. SO MUCH...
BUT---CAN'T LET GO-- CAN'T KNUCKLE DOWN---!
ALL I GOT IS... MY STRENGTH--! IF I LET THAT FAIL ME... THERE'S NOTHIN' LEFT---! NOTHIN'--!
FIGHT IT, BEN--- FIGHT IT!! FIGHT--- YA UGLY, GOOD-FER-NOTHIN' ORANGE-SKINNED MEATHEAD---FIGHT--!
WHAT'S A LITTLE BIT--- OF PAIN--- TO A BIG, BEAUTIFUL SLOB--- LIKE YOU--!
CALL IT A MIRACLE.. CALL IT A SPIRIT THAT CANNOT BE CRUSHED--- CALL IT WHAT YOU WILL.. THE FACT REMAINS--- BEN GRIMM, WITH AN IRON RESOLVE THAT NO WORDS OF OURS CAN TRULY DEPICT---OVERCOMES A COSMIC PRESSURE STRONG ENOUGH TO FLATTEN A CONCRETE FORTRESS--!!
ARRGHHH!
THROCK!
OKAY, BIG-MOUTH-- LET'S HEAR YA MAKE WITH THE SPEECHES NOW!!
11.



AT THAT MOMENT DEEP WITHIN HIS OWN INDESCRIBABLE SANCTUM ... HIDDEN BENEATH THE BLUE AREA OF THE SILENT MOON ... THE UBIQUITOUS WATCHER STARES DEEP INTO HIS EVER-GLOWING TEMORAL VIEWER, KNOWING THAT THE FATE OF EARTH MAY WELL DEPEND UPON THE OUTCOME OF THE BATTLE HE IS OBSERVING...
THE ARCH-VILLAIN, DOOM, IS POSSESSED OF POWERS NOT MEANT FOR MORTAL MAN--- WHILE HIS LUMBERING FOE HAS NAUGHT BUT HIS OWN NATURAL STRENGTH AND IRON RESOLVE TO AID HIM!
WITH BUT A MERE GESTURE, I COULD REACH THE PLANET EARTH--- AND THERE GIVE AID TO HIM WHO FIGHTS FOR JUSTICE!
BUT TOO MANY TIMES IN THE PAST HAVE I DARED TO BREAK THE AGELESS CUSTOM... FOR IT IS MY DUTY MERELY TO WATCH..
WHO KNOWS WHAT HIDDEN HARM MAY BEFALL THE UNIVERSE IF I SEEK TO CHANGE THE WORKINGS OF AN INSCRUTABLE FATE?
I HAVE NO RIGHT TO TAKE SO MONUMENTAL A RISK ONCE MORE!
STILL, IN ALL THE GALAXY THERE ARE NONE MORE DEAR TO MY HEART THAN THOSE WHO INHABIT THE TORTURED EARTH!
NO!! ENOUGH OF SUCH POINTLESS MUSINGS! LET ME SCAN THE FURTHEST REACHES OF SPACE --- LET ME FIND ANOTHER MATTER .. A DISTANT MATTER .. TO DRIVE TEMPTATION FROM ME..!
WHAT NOW IS THIS? A NEW RACE --- A HUMANOID RACE.. BEGINS TO EVOLVE IN SECTOR 34!
THUS, THE DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM ME! I MUST OBSERVE THE BIRTH OF A NEW, AND BUDDING SPECIES!
WHEN I RETURN, THE BATTLE ON EARTH SHALL HAVE ENDED!
AND, ONLY AN ENTITY FAR WISER THAN I CAN KNOW WHAT THE OUTCOME WILL BE!
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CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

NORMAN ROCKWELL—America's most beloved artist. He is a founder and member of the Guiding Faculty of the Famous Artists Schools.

"We're looking for people who like to draw"

says NORMAN ROCKWELL

Today hundreds of men and women who never thought they could be artists are working at easels and drawing boards, making pictures and getting well paid for it. They all can thank a group of famous artists who have devoted much of their time and talent to helping others find success in art.

Some of the People the Famous Artists Have Helped

Carl Koch was an 18 year old apprentice in a Chicago art studio when he enrolled. Today he prepares ads for such companies as General Motors and Firestone—has won five gold medals.

Howard Sanden of Minneapolis took the Course while still in high school. He is now a successful artist—last year he and his wife traveled through Europe and the Middle East on important art assignments.

Paul Sullivan enrolled at 14. His Famous Artists training helped him work his way through college.

Stan Bowen, father of three children, was trapped in a dull, low-paying job. By studying with FAS he became a sought-after illustrator, has opened his own studio.

With Famous Artists training Rosemary Roberts was hired by a top department store as an artist—with a big chance to advance.

Oregon housewife Helen Tryk lives 150 miles from the nearest big city. But she does fashion illustration, has her own studio, runs an art workshop, does portraits.

A Plan to Help Others

It started over 18 years ago when a group of America's most successful artists—men like Albert Dorne, Norman Rockwell, Jon Whitcomb, Al Parker and Stevan Dohanos—met in New York City. They knew that all over America there were people who liked to draw who could be turned into good artists. Albert Dorne asked, "Why can't we give these people the training they need—including all the trade secrets and know-how we've learned over the years?"

He suggested a new kind of art school—a home study art school—that would give talented people the best professional art training, no matter where they live.

The famous artists agreed. Taking time from their busy careers, they created a remarkable series of art lessons covering every aspect of drawing and painting. They illustrated their lessons with over 5,000 "here's-how" illustrations. The lessons start from scratch and cover every skill a top artist needs. Finally, they developed a wonderful way to give each student personal correction and advice all through his training

The famous artists with the School are not surprised at the success of their students. The opportunities open to successful artists today are enormous. The School continually gets calls from all over the country asking for practical well-trained students—not geniuses—who can step into full-time or part-time art jobs. And practical, thorough training is what the School offers.

Famous Artists Talent Test

To find others with art talent worth developing, the Famous Artists created a 12-page talent test. Thousands paid to take this test, but now the School offers and grades it free. Men and women who do well on the test—or offer other evidence of art talent—may enroll in the School. But there's no obligation. Simply mail the coupon below.

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GEORGE GIUSTI	HAROLD VON SCHMIDT
PETER HELCK	ALBERT DORNE

Famous Artists Schools
Studio 5252, Westport, Conn.

I would like to find out whether I have art talent worth developing. Please send me, without obligation, your Famous Artists Talent Test and information about your courses.

Mr. / *Mrs.* / *Miss* ________________ *Age* ______
◄ *Circle one and please print*

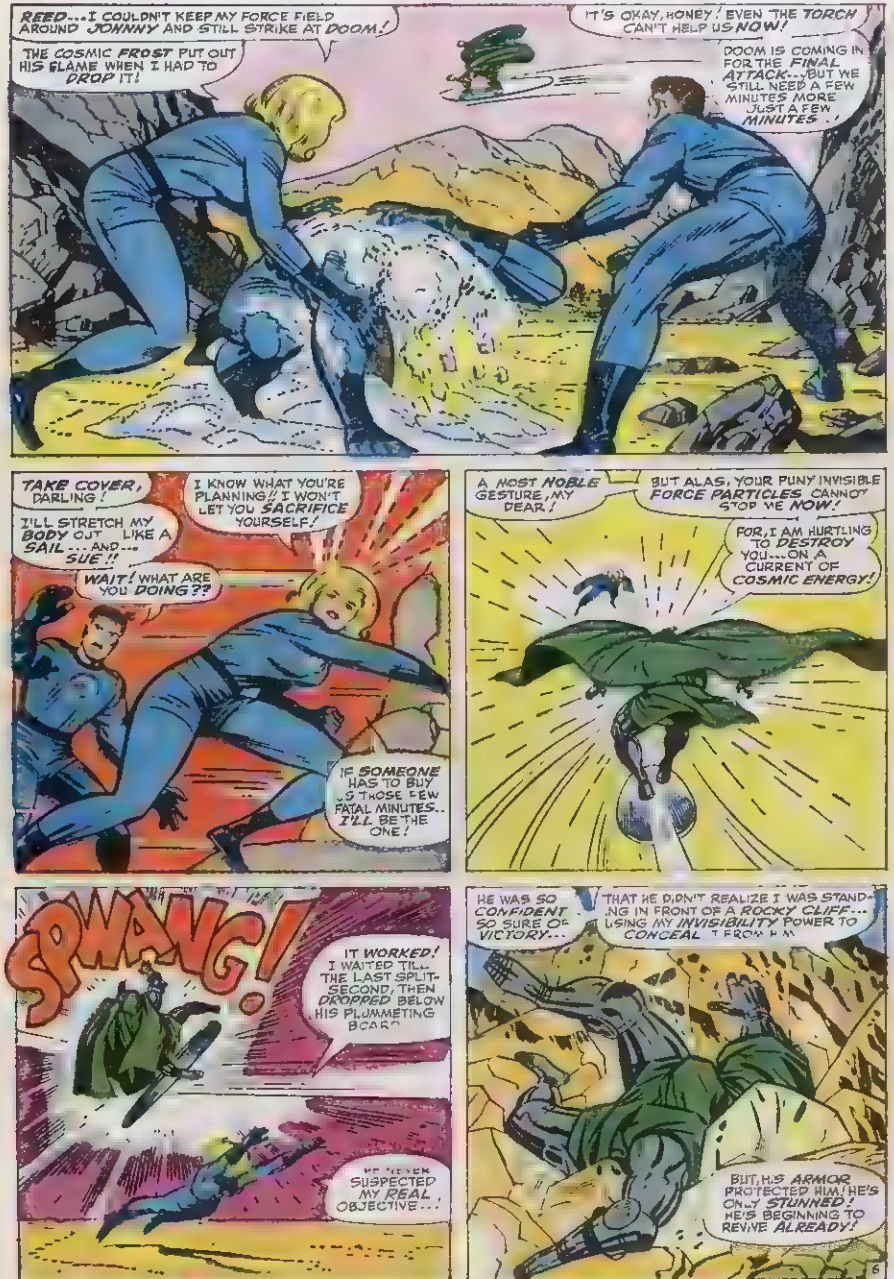
Street ________________

City ________________

State ________________ *Zip* ______

THAT'S JUST WHAT WE'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT. WAIT!
COSMIC POWER
HAPPENED
CAN'T MUSTN'T BE TOO LATE!
THINK
LOOK! DOOM!
SOME POWER! HOW KIND OF YOU TO PLACE YOURSELVES AT MY DISPOSAL
AS FOR THE ORANGE-SKINNED BUFFOON, I HAVE RENDERED HIM HELPLESS-- YONDER..!
NOTICE HOW ALL HIS BESTIAL STRENGTH IS USELESS AGAINST THE ANTI-GRAVITY STASIS FIELD IN WHICH I HAVE FOREVER TRAPPED HIM!
HAH! NOW YER IN FER IT, DOOM!
BUDDIES! GIT ME DOWN FROM HERE--!
YA YET!
SKRAK!
TOO BAD, RICHARDS! I TOOK THE PRECAUTION OF CHARGING THE AREA WITH IMPENETRABLE COSMIC CURRENT!
BUT WHY SHOULD YOU WORRY ABOUT THE THING--?
OWN ARE ABOUT TO BE SLOWLY SNUFFED OUT!
A MOMENT FOR ME TO END IT QUICKLY--- SO I BEG YOU TO BE PATIENT!
NERVE! HE'S JUST TOYING WITH US PLAYING CAT-AND-
WE
BOTTOMLESS
A GESTURE
FLAME ON
4

THE TORCH!! WHAT IS HE DOING??
HANG ON, DOOM! YOU'LL SOON FIND OUT!
MELTING THROUGH THE OUTER WALL OF THE SHAFT
YOU YOUNG FOOL! DO YOU ACTUALLY EXPECT TO TAKE DR. DOOM UNAWARES?
I HAVE TO ADMIT THE IDEA DID KIND'A GRAB ME!
WHILE YOU WASTE PRECIOUS SECONDS THE PERCH IS CRUMBLING
SHOOOOOSSHH
DON'T WORRY ABOUT US, JOHNNY!! SAVE YOURSELF!!
EASY, DARLING... SAVE EVERY OUNCE OF YOUR ENERGY! WE'RE GOING TO NEED IT... RIGHT NOW!
ACTIVATE YOUR INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD! USE IT WHEN I GIVE THE WORD..!
NOW, SUE! THROW IT AROUND THE TORCH... FULL POWER!
IT'S WORKING! THE
CAN'T TOUCH
BAH! THAT WON'T STOP ME!
NOW... RE-CYCLE YOUR FORCE BEAM! SHAPE IT INTO TIGHTLY-PACKED, ROCK-HARD SPHERES!
THAT'S IT! KEEP BOMBARDING HIM... DON'T GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO STRIKE AGAIN!
WE'VE GOT TO KEEP TIME!
GREATER SPORT
YOU'RE FIGHTING BACK-- MAGNIFICENTLY! GOOD! GOOD!
MY APPROACHING VICTORY SWEETER!
15



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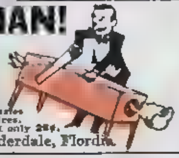

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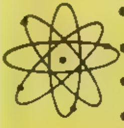

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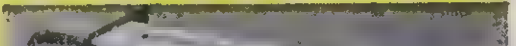

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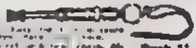

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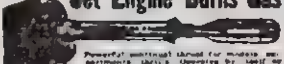

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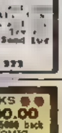

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YOU WERE GREAT, SIS... BUT NOW IT'S MY TURN!
NO, JOHNNY! DON'T GET ANY CLOSER! IT WON'T WORK!
I'LL NAIL 'IM WITH A NEAR-NOVA SOLAR BLAST BEFORE HE CAN STOP ME!
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!
NOTHIN'S GONNA STOP ME NOW!
BUT YOU'VE FORGOTTEN HIS FLYING BOARD!! IT'S COMING RIGHT AT YOU! DUCK, JOHNNY--DUCK!
UNNHHH!
TOO LATE!! HE COULDN'T STOP IN TIME!
IT KNOCKED THE BREATH OUT OF HIM! HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FLAME BEFORE THE END COMES!
OUR LITTLE GAME IS ENDED NOW! YOUR FEEBLE EFFORTS AT SELF-PRESERVATION HAVE CEASED TO AMUSE ME!
FOR, I CAN DALLY WITH YOU NO LONGER--- SINCE THERE IS AN ENTIRE WORLD TO BE WON!
AMONG MY MANY COSMIC POWERS IS THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE ONE OF ALL...
---THE POWER TO COMPLETELY DISINTEGRATE ANY LIVING MATTER---
THE POWER WHICH SHALL NOW OBLITERATE THE ACCURSED FANTASTIC FOUR... FOREVER!
BUT SINCE NO TRUE BELIEVER IS ANXIOUS TO WITNESS THE END OF THE FF, LET US DELAY THAT HORRENDOUS HAPPENSTANCE FOR A MOMENT BY TURNING OUR ATTENTION TO ANOTHER TANTALIZING TABLEAU WHICH IS TRANSPIRING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAINS.
THERE! THAT'S THE PLACE I SAW THE FLYING SAUCER COME DOWN!
HANS IS RIGHT! THERE IS SOMETHING IN THE CLEARING!
A STRANGE SHIP...WITH ALIEN-LOOKING PEOPLE...!!
ONE OF THEM IS TAPPING THAT GIANT OAK WITH HIS HAND--- AS THOUGH PROBING FOR SOMETHING!
7

HE'S SWINGING
AT THE TREE... NO! NO!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! ... SLICED RIGHT THROUGH ... BARE HAND!
AND THE GIRL... SHE TOO HAS A MYSTIC POWER!
SHE MAKES A SIMPLE GESTURE
AS HUMAN AS ANY OF US... CAN ACT ... AFFECT THE ELEMENTS!
ANOTHER PLANET... ANOTHER GALAXY!
THEY'VE COME TO DESTROY
ONE
LOOK OUT! ABOVE ... ARE MORE!
THWISST!
THE GIRL'S HAIR ... ALIVE!
RIFLE
OTHER ... LOOK
HE CAUSED A ROCK SLIDE.. WITH JUST ONE KICK OF
THOOOM!
THEY'RE MAGICIANS.. DEMONS..OR WORSE!! THEY'LL KILL US ALL
RUN, RUN
FASTER! FASTER!
ANYTHING!

AND, AS THE FEARFUL MOUNTAINEERS FRANTICALLY RACE FROM THE SITE..
PERHAPS IT WAS UNWISE OF US TO STOP IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!
THE VILLAGERS ARE TOO FEARFUL..TOO SUPERSTITIOUS!
WE HAVE NAUGHT TO FEAR FROM SUCH AS THEY!
SINCE BLACK BOLT FREED US FROM THE NEGA-TIVE ZONE, NOTHING ON EARTH CAN STAND AGAINST THE POWER OF WE INHUMANS!
BUT, MORE ABOUT THE FASCINATING INHUMANS ANON! NOW, THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO SAVOR THE CATASTROPHIC CONCLUSION OF DR. DOOM'S MOST DEADLY CHALLENGE...
AT LAST--MY MOMENT SUPREME! THE MOMENT WHEN I FINALLY, IRREVOCABLY ANNIHILATE THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN MY GREATEST ENEMIES!
AT MY SIGNAL---THROW YOUR FORCE FIELD BETWEEN US, SUE... WHILE JOHNNY ATTEMPTS A SUPER-NOVA FLAME-OUT!
IF WE MUST GO...WE'VE GOT TO TAKE DOOM WITH US!!
ALWAYS REMEMBER, DARLING... I LOVE Y--- WAIT!!
LOOK..BEHIND DOOM! WE'VE STILL GOT A CHANCE!
YOU'RE TOO LATE, MADMAN! LOOK, BEHIND YOU
IT WON'T WORK RICHARDS. YOUR TIME HAS COME--!
NO SOONER HAVE THE WORDS LEFT THE IRON-MASKED LIPS OF THE WORLD'S MOST DIABOLICAL VILLAIN, THEN A STRANGE, SILENT FLYING CRAFT ZOOMS OVERHEAD, ELECTRONICALLY DRAINING A LARGE PORTION OF COSMIC ENERGY FROM THE STARTLED FIGURE BELOW..
MY KNEES--- BUCKLING--- GROWING WEAK!!
MY STRENGTH... BEGINNING TO EBB..!
THEY DIDN'T FAIL US! THE ARMY DELIVERED MY ANTI COSMIC FLYING WING... JUST AS PLANNED!*
IT ISN'T POSSIBLE! IT'S MAD.. INSANE..!
* WE SAW THE MINIATURE PROTOTYPE OF THE FLYING WING LAST ISH, REMEMBER? ---STICKLER-FOR-ACCURACY STAN.
I SENT THEM THE SMALL-SCALE MODEL I HAD MADE---JUST BEFORE WE TOOK OFF FOR LATVERIA! I KNEW IT WAS THE ONLY THING THAT COULD STOP DOOM---
BUT ONLY ARMY ORDNANCE, IN COLLABORATION WITH TONY STARK'S VAST MUNITIONS COMPLEX---HAD THE RESOURCES TO BUILD IT IN TIME!
IT STAGGERED ME...BUT IT COULDN'T DOWN ME! YOU'VE FAILED, RICHARDS
MY COSMIC POWER IS STILL TOO GREAT FOR YOU! EVEN AS I STAND HERE, MY STRENGTH RETURNS TO ITS MATCHLESS PEAK!
NOW, MY VICTORY IS DOUBLY SWEET--- FOR EVEN THE WEAPON YOU YOURSELF DESIGNED.. EVEN YOUR OWN GENIUS.. COULD NOT DEFEAT ME
NOW, BEFORE THE END COMES.. WATCH ME..!
19

NOTE: OUR LETTERS SECTION APPEARS AFTER NEXT PAGE...

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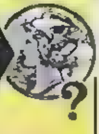

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NUTTY NOTES AND NONSENSICAL NAME DROPPING, FEATURING NATURALLY NON ESSENTIAL NEWS OF THE NATION'S TOP NON-ENTITIES!

ITEM: Boy, are we frustrated! Our printer just called to say he has to have this Bullpen Bulletin page on the presses by tonight! And this is the week our Marvel Super-Heroes TV show goes on the air—which means we won't receive your letters of comment for another few days! Therefore, we can't print a summary of all your opulent opinions until our next B.B. page! Although we may manage to squeeze a mention or two in some of our Letters Pages—'cause they go to the printer a few days later. Anyway, by next ish we'll have everything all straightened out (at least, as straightened out as WE can ever have things!)—so, till then, let's go on to our other items of earth-shaking unconcern—

ITEM: The big talk around the Bullpen these days concerns Marvel-ous MARIE SEVERIN, who's just taken over the illustrating chores on the Doc Strange strip. The mirthful Miss Severin has been keeping us in stitches for years with the hilarious cartoons she whips up whenever no one's looking—but it never occurred to us (or to her) that she could also draw a sensational serious strip—never, that is, until Our Leader asked her to take a whack at Doc Strange, because WILD BILL EVERETT wanted to devote himself full time to his beloved Sub-Mariner. Well, the rest is history. This gal is gonna be one of the greatest! (We're not sure about the greatest *what*—but why be picky?) And to anticipate your question, the answer is "yes"—she's the sister of talented JOHN SEVERIN, who illustrated our Agent of Shield strip about a year ago. Anyway, we know you'll enjoy watching her achieve real Marvel stardom as the months go by—and, take it from us—it couldn't happen to a nicer gal!

ITEM: We'll award a pocket-sized, portable, ten-transistor no-prize to any True Believer who can name a feature in any comics magazine which has had more artists handling it than the happy-go-lucky Hulk! We can name at least six stalwarts who've tackled the illustrating chores in just the past few years and knowing how *blechhh* our memories are, we're sure that you can name a lot more! However, it's just barely possible that we've come up with the perfect choice for ol' Green Skin in the person of GIL (Sugar) KANE! We're not really sure what makes *his* version of everybody's favorite monster so appealing, unless it could be those gamma ray treatments we've been forcing him to undergo! Anyway, we're trying to chain him to the drawing board, and if we succeed, it seems as though ol' Torn Pants will have his own steady artist at last!

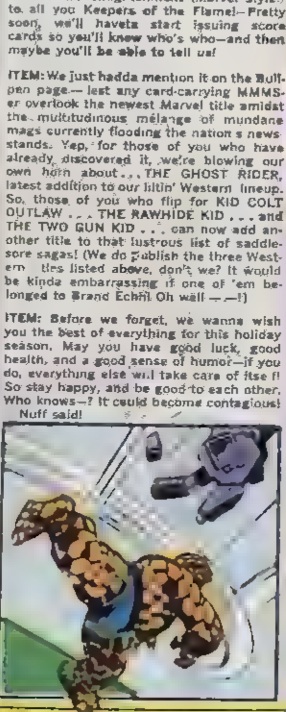
ITEM: Unless we figure out what to *do* about it real fast, it looks like the FANTASTIC FOUR are gonna have the biggest cast of characters in super-hero history! What with the six most famous Inhumans now being free—not counting their dog, Lockjaw—and the Silver Surfer still making the scene, as well as the Black Panther, Wyatt Wingfoot, the Wizard, [illegible] Alicia and don't forget the ori[illegible] members of the F.F.—or the ever-delightful Doc Doom—all we can say is *Hooo boy!* (And, imagine if we had to feature the Yancy Street Gang regularly, too!—There are dozens of 'em!) Now do you see why poor Stan and Jack even have trouble remembering their own names sometimes?

ITEM: Who says this isn't the Marvel Age of Rapid Advancement? Didja notice that RASCALLY ROY THOMAS is now scripting four features each month? (And, it seems like only yesterday that SMILIN' STAN was telling him what all those little buttons on the typewriter were there for!) Hard-working Roy is busily putting words in the mouths of The X-MEN, SGT. FURY, the AVENGERS, and S.H.I.E.L.D.! But, here's the payoff—Roy was originally supposed to lighten the work load for poor Smiley; but now that the Rascally One is so busy, we hadda hire *another* budding Shakespeare to take the pressure off *him!* So, let's hear it for GARY FRIEDRICH, whom we snatched away from an editorial job on a Midwest newspaper to help bring culture and enlightenment (Marvel style!) to all you Keepers of the Flame!—Pretty soon, we'll haveta start issuing score cards so you'll know who's who—and then maybe you'll be able to tell *us!*

ITEM: We just hadda mention it on the Bullpen page— lest any card-carrying MMMSer overlook the newest Marvel title amidst the multitudinous mélange of mundane mags currently flooding the nation's newsstands. Yep, for those of you who have already discovered it, we're blowing our own horn about . . . THE GHOST RIDER, latest addition to our liltin' Western lineup. So, those of you who flip for KID COLT OUTLAW . . . THE RAWHIDE KID . . . and THE TWO GUN KID . . . can now add another title to that lustrous list of saddlesore sagas! (We *do* publish the three Western titles listed above, don't we? It would be kinda embarrassing if one of 'em belonged to Brand Echh! Oh well — —!)

ITEM: Before we forget, we wanna wish you the best of everything for this holiday season. May you have good luck, good health, and a good sense of humor—if you do, everything else will take care of itself! So stay happy, and be good to each other. Who knows—? It could become contagious!

Nuff said!



THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

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AVENGERS #37: The Avengers polish off the Ultroids—only to run smack dab into the even mightier menace of . . . Ixar the Incredible! And wait'll you see Wanda and Pietro in action once more!

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DAREDEVIL #25: The most unexpected development of all—DD introduces his "twin brother" to Karen and Foggy! And—wait'll you see his battle with the Leap-Frog! It's a sensation!

THOR #137: Never has Asgard faced a greater danger than—the Trolls! And, never has Thor faced a more monstrous Troll than Ulik—while Sif is taken from him!

STRANGE TALES #154: The gloves are off! It's Fury vs. the savage strength of Hydra's deadly Dreadnought! And, what's poor Dr. Strange going to do when Umar finally kills the helpless Clea?

SUSPENSE #87: Iron Man faces one of the most macabre villains of all time—the Mole Man—as ol' Shell-Head has his most glorious failure! Meanwhile, Captain America has the fight of his life — or is it, his death?

ASTONISH #89: Never has the Sub-Mariner scored a more daringly different victory! But, the Hulk is forced to battle the most powerful foe of all—the unearthly Stranger!

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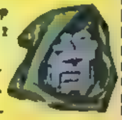


Fantastic Four Fan Page

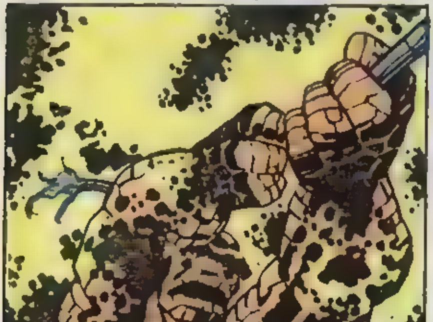
Send letters to LEE and KIRBY
THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP
SECOND FLOOR 625 MADISON AV
NEW YORK 10022 N.Y.

Dear Stan and Jack,

I must congratulate you on F.F. #57. My friend commented that your F.F. is better than a particular Brand Echh book which he cherished very much, but now he is a Marvel fan. Sorry to say, though, that I have a very grave problem. I am going to the Seminary at Beaumont to become a priest and I don't know how I will keep up my collections of F.F., THOR, and your other Marvels because I love them dearly. See if you and the Marvel gang there can help me on my problem. Thank you.

Charles Crowley, 215 Clower Ave.
Long Beach, Miss. 39560

No cry is unheard — no question unanswered — no problem unsolved here at the glistening gates of the benevolent Bullpen! As soon as you are duly enrolled at Beaumont, Charlie, merely send us your complete address and *LO*, as surely as Yancy Street endures, a complimentary subscription to the World's Greatest Comic Magazine shall be thine! The voice of Marveldom has thundered! Now, attend ye all—that we be heard! And, the best of luck to you, fella!



Dear Stan and Jack,

I just read a letter in F.F. #56 from a fan who feels the written sound effects in your mags spoil the battle scenes. I should like to state that the sound effects are practically my favorite part! Don't you dare leave a single unused opportunity for one. I love your sound effects! Some recent ones I liked were "Thtip!" from SUSPENSE #83, "Blat!", "Stasp!", and "Fthap!" from various AVENGERS adventures, but I must say my all-time favorite is "Thakkapakkow!" That's the best description of a ricochet that I've ever heard!

Mimi Spencer, 5520 31st N.E.
Seattle, Wash. 98105

We're deeply touched, Mimi! Though it's not generally known, sound effects absolutely knock us out of our trees! We spend almost as much time dreaming up the best sound effect for a situation as we do writing the dialogue! (Uh, oh! Won't *this* give Brand Echh a chance to say "No wonder your dialogue reads that way!")Anyway, you're a real pussycat, gal—and a big *SMMMMACKKKK* to you, from all of us!

Dear Stan and Jack,

Once again I take pen in hand to send you another of my thought bundles. First off, a little praise. Jack Kirby is without a doubt the greatest, with no exceptions, comic book artist today. His imagination is seemingly boundless, his drawing superb. Even his fantastic machines are enough for volumes of praise . . . intricate, unique, and somehow illogically logical. As for Mr. Lee's scripts, too much cannot be said. He is, seriously, the greatest fantasy writer today in the traditional vein. Yet even though his gods, his mythological creatures, and the like are beyond compare, he still has a tremendous sense of realism and humor. You two are creating the myths of our times. Also, Vince Colletta is the best inker you've got (which naturally means the best in comics), but please let Gene Colan have him back—they are a beautiful team.

Curt Tweddell, 7434 Drake Rd.
Cincinnati 43, Ohio

Egad, lad! What of Joltin' Joe Sinnott? What of the endless days and nights of toil and tribulation as he doth give his all in the cause of Marveldom? Let Gentleman Gene Colan and Valorous Vince Colletta work out their own arrangements in their own letters pages! The only way you can make up to us now is to mention ol' Joe in a THOR or DAREDEVIL letters section! However, think us not ungrateful for the meaningful words of peerless praise which you have heaped upon the beaming brows of Stan and Jack. But, shed a tear for Artie Simek who—as far as Curt Tweddell is concerned—has labored, alas, in vain!

Dear Stan and Jack,

Recently I have very seriously been considering dropping Marvel. About a week ago I decided with finality never to buy another Marvel mag. But yesterday I wandered into the drug store where I saw some new Marvels. Needless to say, my heart leapt and I bought them. However, whereas I was excited when I bought them, I was depressed when I read them. The old Marvel magic is being diluted by "progress". Let me use the F.F. as an example. Up to about a year ago, you could curl up with an F.F. knowing you would see your favorite super-hero group battling a crazy, cuddly super-villain you hadn't seen in a long time. You expected and got Marvel's unique combination of action and philosophy. It was complete relaxation — Utopia! But now everything is too fast-moving, too crowded, too much like life itself. In F.F. #56 the first 4 pages were about Reed, Sue, and Ben. Then over to the Inhumans for a few pages. Then back to Reed, Sue, and Ben for 8 more. Next, one with Johnny and Wyatt, then 5 more with the first three. And that is an improvement over the last few issues! [illegible] you could give your mag any of these titles: "The Black Panther", "The Inhumans", "The Thrilling Three", "The Silver Surfer" or "The Torch and the Tracker". But wait! There is a light in this darkness — Victor Von Doom, a member, if not leader, of the old guard, is back, at last! Maybe he can show the way in a campaign to get the Black Panther, Silver Surfer, and the Inhumans out of the Fantastic Four's mag, and return it to its former glory. If he can, this is one Marvelite you won't have to worry about losing.

Brian Oatley, 8611 Becker Ave.
Allen Park, Mich. 48101

Brian, ol' buddy, we've gotta hand it to you — you're different, anyhow! You're the first Marvelite within our memory who has ever complained about our saga-

cious sagas being "too fast-moving," or "too much like life itself"! In fact, we can hardly wait to see what the rest of our True Believers will add to your own classic critique! But, regardless of that, it seems that we introduced Doc Doom in the nick of time to keep you from slipping away from us, eh? Gosh — who ever thought the world's most dastardly do-badder would end up doing us a favor? But, that's show biz!

Dear Stan and Jack,

Oh, how can I find the words to thank you for F.F. #57? It is definitely the greatest story I have ever read in a comic magazine. The cover alone was a true masterpiece. The only thing wrong is the Invisible Girl's right foot. Is she double-jointed? Incidentally, does Wyatt Wingfoot always wear the same tee-shirt? About Dr. Doom—with weapons like his mobile, all-powerful pacifier, why doesn't he utilize them against the F.F.? With all of those machines going, why does the workshop of Dr. Doom escape detection? And where did all the workers in his lab come from? Finally, let me say that the scene where Dr. Doom steals the power of the Silver Surfer was the most dramatic drawing ever to outshadow Brand Echh! No wonder I always say—Make Mine Marvel!

James Gritis, 420 No. Springfield Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60624

Ah, those imperishable words! How they warm the very cockles of our mercenary hearts! But, to answer your questions, frantic one, we must confess that we weren't aware of any affliction that Mrs. Richards may have had regarding her right foot. However, we'll send her to Dr. Don Blake for a check-up as soon as we can find him, and a prognosis should be forthcoming shortly. No, Wyatt Wingfoot (a name to conjure with, if ever there was one!) doesn't always wear the same tee-shirt! He merely happens to have dozens of them —all the same color! As for our now-departed Doctor Doom, he didn't have to worry about his workshop escaping detection—considering that he was the absolute ruler of the entire nation of Latveria, remember? We're not quite sure where all his lab workers came from—but we'd hazard a guess that the state-controlled Latverian employment agencies were most cooperative! Okay, Jimmy?

Dear Stan and Jack,

I am a 19-year-old sophomore at Amarillo College (majoring in English), a former National Merit finalist, National Honor Society member, and the most wildly enthusiastic Marvel addict in the Watcher's section of the universe. Five years ago I somehow overlooked the first issue of a new comic mag, THE FANTASTIC FOUR, on one of my weekly visits to my newsstand. Two months later, I purchased a copy of F.F. #2, and have not missed an issue since then—and I have 56 carefully-preserved F.F. masterpieces to prove it! I followed faithfully the exploits of the F.F. as they fought against Sub-Mariner, Dr. Doom, Red Ghost, the Mad Thinker, and innumerable other menaces to humanity, and I became firmly convinced that the F.F. really was the World's Greatest Comic Magazine. Then, beginning with issue #35 or thereabouts, a gradual change took place. The stories began to blend into each other. By issue #44, the F.F. had become the world's first comic magazine soap opera. Did I approve of the change? You can bet your Hulk sweatshirt I didn't! I was madder than a Marvelite on a desert island with nothing to read but a stack of Brand Echhs. During my four years as a comic book collector, I had read almost nothing but one-issue stories. Two-parters were all right once in a while, but good old one-issue stories could not be beat. One continuous F.F. yarn, slow-pacing its way through Odin-knows-how-many-issues! Ridiculous! Absurd! I was on the verge of turning in my M.M.M.S. membership card. With a feeling that could probably best be described as resentment, I bought a copy of issue #45, took it home and read the first 7 pages of "Among Us Hide the Inhumans". Ugh. Continued stories. I turned to page 8. A beautiful girl appears. Johnny sees her. She disappears. Something new in plots? Hardly. Was I interested? You bet your Marvel bubble gum cards I was! I had to find out who this girl was, just as Johnny Storm did, because I was even more in love with her than he was. Crystal—lovely name. Hmmm —a glimpse of Black Bolt—hmmm—I was hooked. The 30 days between F.F. #45 and #46 were a mighty long 30 days. Now, in 1966, we have the Silver Surfer, Black Panther, Wyatt Wingfoot, and the Inhumans, all existing at the same time, each an intricate part of a plot that could very well have come from the pen of H. G. Wells or Edgar Rice Burroughs. A little bit of imagination is all one needs to place himself in the mad, mirthful, mysterious, marvelous world of the fabulous Fantastic Four. Escapism? Definitely. Juvenile literature? No more than Omar Khayyam's poems are strictly Persian literature, or Beethoven's symphonies are strictly German music. The Fantastic Four is for anyone and everyone. The Fantastic Four has become more than just a comic magazine. It is the utilization of the heretofore unrealized potential of an infant art form—try saying that with five marbles in your mouth! 'Nuff said!

Mike Malson, 1908 S. Harrison
Amarillo, Tex. 79109

Loved your letter, Mike—but haven't time to write a lengthy reply—we're too busy trying to scare up five marbles! Face front, fearless one!

Dear Stan and Jack,

I have just read the letters pages in F.F. #57. In one section was a letter from a high school dropout. Now I had been seriously thinking of becoming a dropout, but after reading your answer, Stan, I made up my mind to continue my education! I sincerely thank you from the bottom of my heart and I hope others, too, have seen the light.

John Eifu, 101 Michel Ave.
So. Farmingdale, L. I., N. Y.

So do we, Johnny. It's a good feeling to know that somewhere, somehow, in some way, a small portion of the perpetual prose we keep dishing out may be having a salutary effect somewhere in Marveldom. Good luck with the continuance of your schooling, tiger — we know you'll never regret it.

NEXT ISH: You'd think the F.F. would have a chance to rest up for a while after defeating one of the most deadly menaces of their career, right? Wrong! No sooner do they return to their HQ than they're plunged headlong into a murderous mystery, posed by the return of an old super-villain in a brand new guise! You'll also learn the dramatic decision of the Silver Surfer, as well as seeing the dramatic appearance of lovely Crystal! But, the best part of all is the block-busting battle between the F.F.—especially the bludgeoning Thing—and the uncanny power of—ahh, but why not see for yourself in F.F. #61? It's Stan and Jack at their bombastic best—and all True Believers know what that means! So, whatever you do, watch out for cosmic power-blasts—don't get trapped in interspacial warps—and wear a sweater if it's chilly! See ya next ish, fellow madman! 'Nuff said!

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